29th January 1936]

Re-shuffling of the electoral circles of the South Arcot District Board.

* 555 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the electoral circles of the South Arcot District Board are proposed to be changed for the coming elections, from what had been fixed at the time of elections to that district board during 1932;

(*b*) if so, what the reasons therefor are;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that revenue firkas were adopted as units of district board electoral circles at the time of elections in 1932, and that no firka was allowed to be split as a general policy in this district and elsewhere;

(*d*) if so, by whom such a policy was laid;

(*e*) what remarks the Inspector of Local Boards offered on such a policy, and what orders the Government passed on such a policy; whether the remarks of the Inspector of Local Boards, and the orders of Government in the matter will be placed on the table;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the revenue firkas are not taken as the electoral unit, and that a few villages of a certain firka and a few villages of some other firka are put together to form a district board circle in that district for the coming elections; and

(*g*) if so, what the reasons are for such a change?

A.—(*a*) There has been a re-division of the South Arcot District Board electoral circles in supersession of the original division ordered in 1932.

(*b*) As the original division of electoral circles resulted in an unequal distribution of voters among the circles, the district board urged a re-division of the electoral circles and submitted proposals for the removal of the inequalities.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) & (*e*) No such policy was laid down officially.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) Revenue firka as a basis of division into circles had to be given up, in order to avoid the defects mentioned in answer to clause (*b*) above.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I ask whether this plea of unequal distribution did not exist and was not considered at the time of the 1932 elections?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I think it was not considered."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know whether it is a fact that the Board itself passed a resolution suggesting re-shuffling of the circles and whether their recommendations were followed by the Government?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The recommendations of the district board are in the main followed by the Government. Whenever proposals are made, they are published for eliciting opinion and further information is obtained. And if any changes have to be made, they are made and then the proposals are confirmed."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—" May I know whether this principle now adumbrated for the benefit of this House and for future Governments that electoral circles have been reconstituted for the removal of inequalities in the voting strength has been followed in the case of all the district boards in the Presidency or in all cases in respect of the South Arcot District Board itself? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" As far as possible, whenever such a course is considered necessary, the district board is consulted."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—" May I take it that the Government will set right such inequalities only when they consider it necessary for their purpose and not as a matter of policy or principle? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Whenever such a matter is brought to the notice of the Government, they fully consider the question on its merits."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" In reply to clause (c) of the question, ' whether it is a fact that revenue firkas were adopted as units of district board electoral circles at the time of elections in 1932 ' it is said ' Yes.' May I ask what tangible reasons the Government have for meddling with that principle now? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The answer to clause (b) says that ' as the original division of electoral circles resulted in an unequal distribution of voters among the circles, the district board urged a re-division of the electoral circles '."

Reasons for the variation of the number of villages constituting the electoral circles of the South Arcot District Board.

* 556 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state what are the reasons for the variations in the number of villages constituting each of the electoral circles proposed to be formed for the coming elections to the South Arcot District Board?

A.—Attention is invited to the answer given to clause (b) of question No. 555.

Re-shuffling the constituencies of the South Arcot District Board.

* 557 *Q.*—Mr. P. RATNAVELU THEVAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) on what date the notification terminating the life of the present District Board of South Arcot was issued and from what date the Board was to cease to function;